Selection of News Readers for Doordarshan

2040. SHRIMATI MONIKA DAS: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for selecting 'News Readers' for Doordarshan;

(b) what are the terms and conditions for employing regular Readers as well as casual Readers; and

(c) the rate of fees paid to Hindi as well as English news Readers separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) News Readers for Doordarshan are selected keeping in view their fulfilment of the prescribed educational qualification, their general appearance and presentability, voice quality dictation and familiarity with common terms used in news presentation. They are also required to face camera test, both before selection and post selection training.

(b) Regular News Readers are not being appointed by Doordarshan since 1980. Those appointed before that are in the category of staff artists and are governed by terms and conditions of employment applicable to that category which generally specify fee scales and matters relating to leave, conduct, etc. At present, News Readers other than those in the category of staff artists are employed on assignment basis according to programme requirements of each Doordarshan Kendra as per the criteria mentioned above. The terms and conditions of their engagement mainly relate to the fee payable and discipline to be observed for smooth working of the news room.

(c) The fees paid to Hindi and English News Readers are in the range of Rs. 75 to Rs. 150 for each performance. Fresh recruits are paid at the lowest rate. The fee payable to a News Reader may be increased within the above range, depending on experience and performance.

Completion of electoral rolls for Lok Sabha Elections

2041. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revision of electoral rolls for the ensuing Lok Sabha elections has been completed in all the States; and

(b) if not, which are the States where revision has not been completed and what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGANNATH KAUSHAL): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that the electoral rolls in respect of the constituencies (except in the State of Assam) have been prepared with reference to 1-1-1984 and finally published. Regarding Assam the attention is invited to the reply given to the Starred Question No. 116 dated 30th July, 1984.

Applications for Telephone Connections in Vidarbha

2042. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for getting new telephone connections on the waiting lists at present under each category, in each district of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) up to which year the applications in each category in each district have been covered; and

(c) by when the pending applications are likely to be covered and what is the programme for clearing the applications in each category in each district?